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## **Lt. Governor Skillman Announces Indianapolis Homeward Bound Kickoff**

*Annual 5K walk raises money for local homeless and housing providers*

Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman today announced the official kickoff of the Indianapolis Homeward Bound 5K Walk to provide housing and fight homelessness. As the honorary statewide Chairperson, Lt. Gov. Skillman is raising both awareness and funding for the fight against homelessness.

“I encourage you to join us in this important event,” said Lt. Gov. Skillman. “By participating in a walk, you can help your homeless neighbors and those at risk of becoming homeless. Together we can make sure everyone in Indiana has a place to call home.”

Homeward Bound is an annual fundraiser among local homeless and affordable housing providers across Indiana. The Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues provides technical assistance, with program underwriting by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Great Lakes Capitol Fund, Ice Miller LLP, and National City Bank.

The Indianapolis Homeward Bound walk will take place on Sunday, April 22, 2007 at Veterans Memorial Park in Downtown Indianapolis. Registration, food and entertainment are from 12:00 p.m. –1:00 p.m., followed by greetings from Lt. Gov. Skillman, local dignitaries and Indianapolis’s local spokesperson, Luwanna Jennings. The walk officially starts at 2:00 p.m., and at 3:30 p.m. walkers will return for awards and announcements.

Luwanna Jennings experienced over fourteen years of homelessness and felt as though she was at the end of her rope when she walked into Horizon House. After years of abuse, drug use, legal troubles, and battles for custody of her children, she received the tools she needed to turn her life around. Today, Luwanna is a minister, is attending college, and serves as a motivational speaker for various groups and organizations in the area.

“I am very much honored to be a spokesperson for Homeward Bound so that I can continue to stand for our neighbors who are still homeless. Homeward Bound is a catalyst for those who are homeless in that the support they acquire will and has helped to make services more effective in lives of our neighbors; hopefully the more community awareness and involvement they can be loved back to life as well through supportive services and just people coming together realizing that none of us are whole until all of us are walking forward,” said Jennings.

Programs like Horizon House rely on grassroots fundraisers like Homeward Bound to help with administrative and operating expenses. Other organizations that will benefit locally include The Abbie Hunt Bryce Home, Adult & Child Mental Health Center, Inc., Christian Help, Inc., Community Alliance of the Far Eastside, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis, Hawthorne Community Center, Homeless Initiative Program, Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) , The Julian Center , Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center , Midtown Community Mental Health Center, Partners In Housing Development Corporation, The Salvation Army Harbor Light Center, School on Wheels, Second Helpings, Inc., Starfish Initiative's , Stopover, Inc., and Trusted Partners.

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For more information about the Indianapolis Homeward Bound Walk, please contact Jenny Coffey at 317-921-2121.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCDA) mission is for every Hoosier to have the opportunity to live in safe, affordable, good-quality housing in economically stable communities. IHCDA believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information, go to [www.indianahousing.org](http://www.indianahousing.org). For updates from Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at [www.in.gov/lgov](http://www.in.gov/lgov).